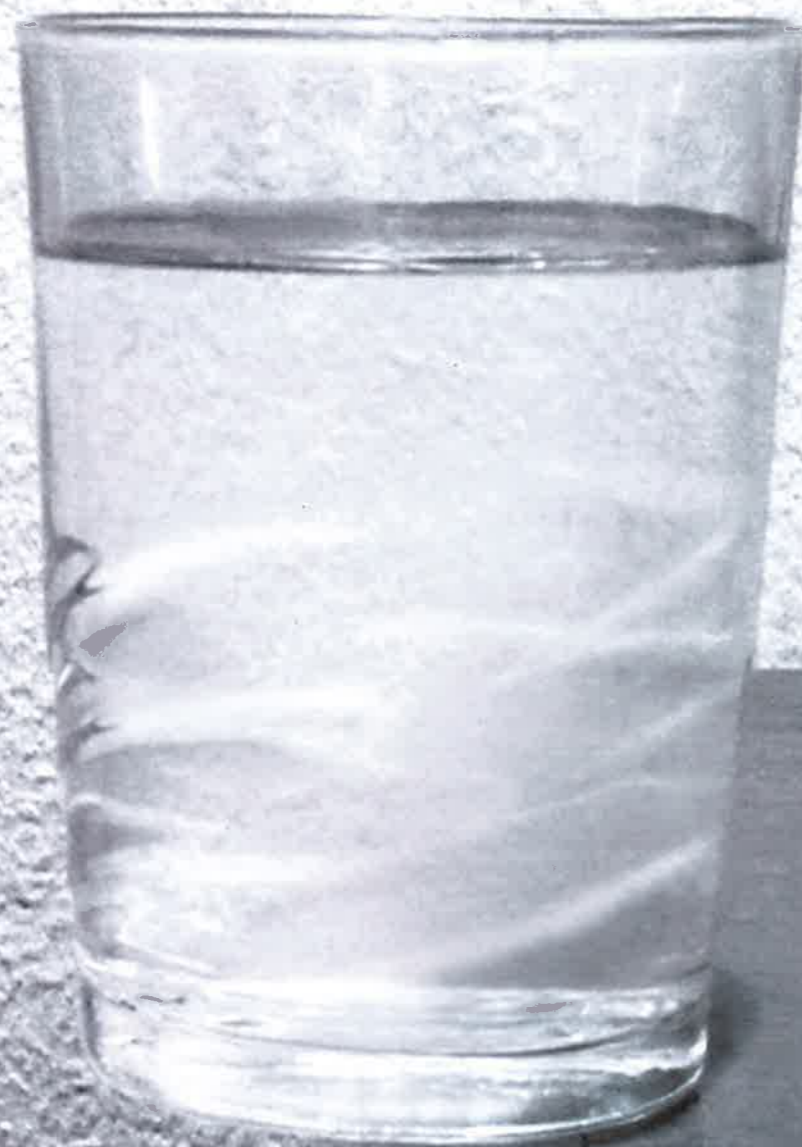


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Tenerias Omega among "Companies to inspire"

SPAIN Spanish upholstery leather manufacturer, Tenerias Omega, is the only tannery to have been nominated in the report developed by the London Stock Exchange Group.

"Companies to inspire Europe", a report developed by the London Stock Exchange Group, has nominated and



▣ Alberto Navarro, Managing Director, Tenerias Omega

awarded Tenerias Omega as one of the 1,000 companies with the fastest-growth, and as one of the most dynamic small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across Europe.

The only tannery in Europe to have been selected for the report, Tenerias Omega has met

three strict requirements, which include positive growth during the last three years compared with its competitors, and a firm commitment to creating employment.

On average, the selected enterprises in the report have grown 71% over the last three years, and 100 companies were able to trigger their results above 400%. In terms of employment, they increased the staff by about 66% over the last two years. Overall, these companies hold over 4,000 patents.

This is great news for the tannery which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Founded in 1991, Tenerias Omega is specialised in the automotive, aviation, hospitality and saddlery sectors. Based in the region of Navarra, Spain, the tannery covers 67,000 sq m of land, and produces around 24,000 hides monthly, equivalent to 120,000 sq m of finished leather.

Hochstein joins National Beef

UNITED STATES American meat packer and wet-blue tanner National Beef, has announced a new Vice-President, Hide and Leather Sales. John Hochstein formally joined the company on September 19.

"We are excited that John has joined the National Beef team bringing his many years of experience in the U.S. hide industry



▣ John Hochstein

to our business. Our wet-blue tannery is now complete and it presents us with an opportunity to sell high-quality, and consistent wet-blue to existing and new customers in the leather industry", Tim Klein, CEO, National Beef Packing Co told ILM on the announcement.

After growing up on a family owned cattle farm in Nebraska, John Hochstein first entered the meat packing industry in 1987 after completing his Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from the University of Nebraska.

Hochstein has previously worked at Cargill and has been selling wet salted and some wet-blue hides since the 1990s. He had recently left the business to relocate his family within the U.S. when the opportunity to join the National Beef team arose.

He will be based out of the company's St Joseph tannery and will travel extensively serving National Beef's wet-salted and wet-blue customers globally.



Opening of the London Leather Fashion Hub

Gruppo Mastrotto open London hub

UNITED KINGDOM Europe's largest tanner, Gruppo Mastrotto officially inaugurated its London Leather Fashion Hub on September 29. The event was hosted by Group CEO, Chiara Mastrotto and aims to bring the company's leather collections closer to the UK's leather fashion buyers and designers.

The new hub consists of a showroom with a sample of just some of the company's collection of over 1000 colours which they offer through its innovative 'Mastrotto Express' service based at the company's headquarters in Arzignano, Italy.

Gruppo Mastrotto has invested heavily in its Express Service which offers its customers delivery within 48 hours from a selection of over 1000+ leather colours and types. "In an age where customers want more personalisation and faster deliveries the Express Service is a way in which we can offer our customers what they need very quickly", Lara Toscano, Marketing Manager, Gruppo Mastrotto explained to ILM during the official opening.

The hub is located in London's trendy Shoreditch district which has a

concentration of vibrant businesses and offers an ideal showcase for buyers and designers to drop-in and view the leather collection.

"Gruppo Mastrotto has decided to make a further investment in the English market, which has an absolute international appeal. We want to enter permanently as strategic partner of our current and potential clients", explains Chiara Mastrotto.

It has also decided to go ahead with the UK investment and they are not concerned about the recent Brexit vote. The hub is a part of a global network of similar fashion hubs that the company is or will establish in many of the world's fashion capitals to bring its leather closer to the customer.

The company recently announced a 10% increase in turnover in fiscal 2015 over the previous year, representing €42 million on a total turnover of €462 million. Net income exceeded €25 million in 2015, a 24% a growth year-on-year. Industrial and commercial investments in 2015 totalled €20 million, representing 4.4% of the total turnover.

ATC build Center of Excellence

FRANCE At the headquarters of French leather chemical makers, ATC, in Montanay the company will undertake some structural building modifications over the last quarter of 2016.

The current application laboratory will be transformed into a new Center of Excellence, involving the complete reorganisation of the 1,000m² area and the installation of new laboratory drums as well as Rotopress, dry shaving, setting-out machinery, and two spray booths.

The new layout will offer ATC customers and partners the best environment for training and trials during technical seminars, so that they get the most benefit from ATC's latest innovations and know-how.

The new Center is due to be ready by January 2017.